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March 9, 2001

Mr. David Waddell, Executive Secretary  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: Gasco Distribution Systems, Inc.  
Docket No. 97-00293

Dear David:

Gasco has proposed to the TRA that, in lieu of a fine, the company be permitted to make a charitable contribution to ratepayers who are having difficulty paying their winter gas bills.

In light of the questions raised by the TRA staff, Gasco amends its proposal as follows. Rather than make contributions directly to ratepayers, Gasco will contribute the money to a 501(c)(3) charitable agency in Jellico, Tennessee. That agency will then be responsible for distributing the contributions to area residents based on the agency's own criteria and knowledge of the area.

Local officials in Jellico, have suggested that the contribution be made to an organization called the Mountain Women's Exchange. It is Gasco's understanding that this organization, one of the oldest 501(c)(3) charities in the area, provides an educational and health related services in the Jellico area. The organization has been contacted and is willing to accept Gasco's contribution and distribute it to needy ratepayers in the area.

Since payments to ratepayers would be made by a charity rather than by Gasco, this amended proposal should eliminate the discrimination issues raised by the staff. The contribution would benefit, directly or indirectly, the entire area. Gasco therefore proposes a conference with

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the staff and the Consumer Advocate to work out the remaining details of a settlement.

Sincerely,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:   
Henry Walker

HW/nl  
c: All parties